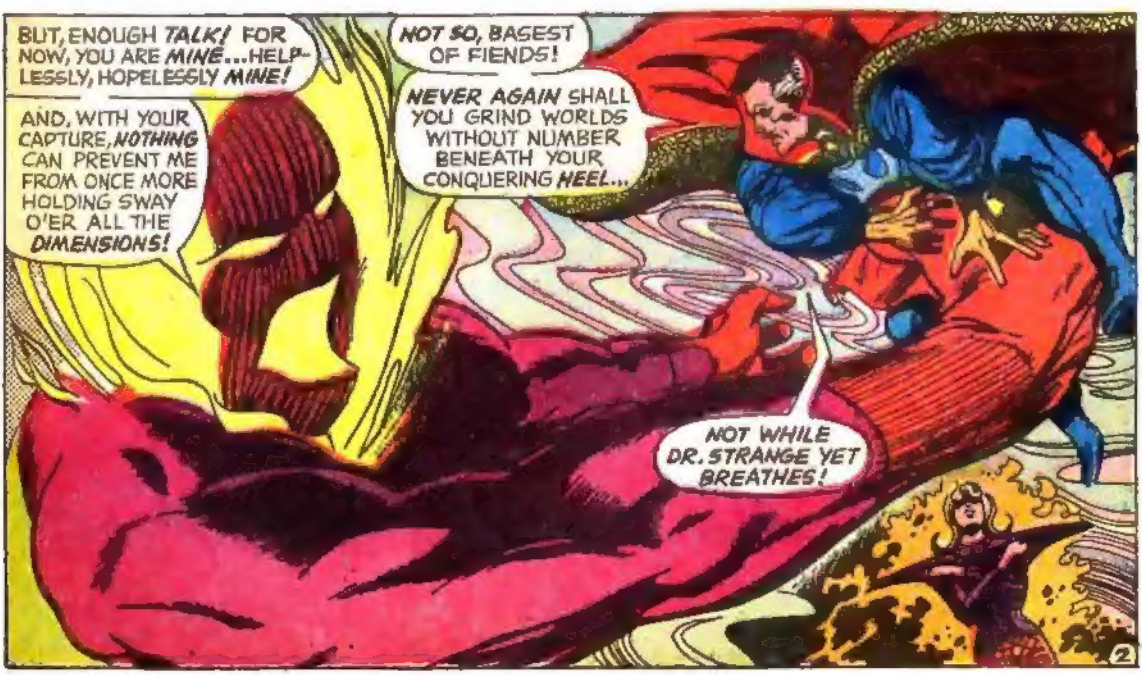
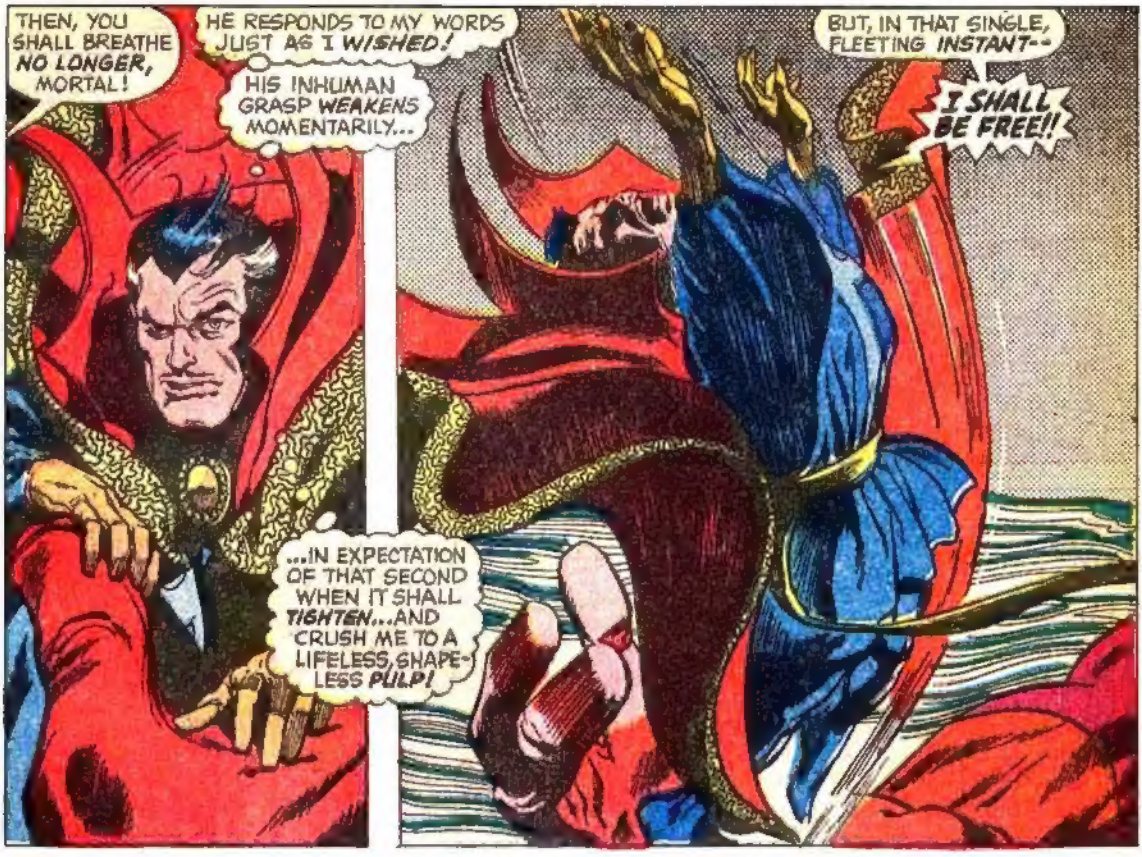
DOCTOR STRANGE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
172 SEPT
MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
"I, DORMAMMU!"

DR. STRANGE--
YOU WHO HAVE EVER CALLED YOURSELF MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS--
LEARN NOW HOW PUNY YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED POWER WHEN 'TIS I WHO OPPOSE YOU...
...WHEN 'TIS I WHO NOW STAND READY TO SNUFF OUT THE BRIEF CANDLE OF YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE...
...I, DORMAMMU!
THEN, IT WAS YOU WHO SENT YOUR WRAITH-LIKE HORDES AGAINST ME...
...PHANTOM SHAPES WHICH EXISTED MERELY TO DRAIN MY MYSTIC POWER...
...TILL I REMAINED BUT A SHRUNKEN SHADOW OF MY FORMER SELF!
ANOTHER LEGEND-LADEN LANDMARK, RIPPED UNTIMELY FROM THE TALENTED TENTACLES OF:
STAN LEE, EDITOR,
ROY THOMAS, WRITER,
GENE COLAN, ARTIST!
INKED BY: TOM PALMER
LETTERED BY: I. WATANABE

"AYE," SPEAKS THE DREAD ONE--"FOR I KNEW THAT NO DANGER...NO THREAT TO YOUR OWN WRETCHED PERSON...COULD DETER YOU FROM YOUR FORE-DOOMED MISSION HERE IN THE REALM UNKNOWN..."
"...YOUR PITIFUL QUEST TO RESCUE YOUR BELOVED CLEA, SHE WHO WAS EXILED HERE 'NEATH A SPELL OF VANISHMENT... AND THE EARTH-FEMALE YOU CALL VICTORIA, WHO ACCOMPANIED YOU HITHER...!"
"INDEED, 'TWAS EVEN HER CONJURED IMAGE THAT RETURNED TO YOU BEFORE, THE BETTER TO CAUSE YOU TO EXPEND YOUR ACCURSED SPELLS..."


BUT, ENOUGH TALK! FOR NOW, YOU ARE MINE...HELPLESSLY, HOPELESSLY MINE!
AND, WITH YOUR CAPTURE, NOTHING CAN PREVENT ME FROM ONCE MORE HOLDING SWAY O'ER ALL THE DIMENSIONS!
NOT SO, BASEST OF FIENDS!
NEVER AGAIN SHALL YOU GRIND WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER BENEATH YOUR CONQUERING HEEL...
NOT WHILE DR. STRANGE YET BREATHES!


THEN, YOU SHALL BREATHE NO LONGER, MORTAL!
HE RESPONDS TO MY WORDS JUST AS I WISHED!
HIS INHUMAN GRASP WEAKENS MOMENTARILY...
BUT, IN THAT SINGLE, FLEETING INSTANT--
I SHALL BE FREE!!
...IN EXPECTATION OF THAT SECOND WHEN IT SHALL TIGHTEN...AND CRUSH ME TO A LIFELESS, SHAPELESS PULP!

YET, EVEN AS THE CLOAK OF LEVITATION CARRIES DR. STRANGE BEYOND HIS FOE'S PHYSICAL REACH...
FOOL...DID YOU TRULY IMAGINE YOU COULD DO ANYTHING FOR WHICH DORMAMMU WAS NOT PREPARED?
HAVE I NOT HAD ENDLESS MONTHS TO PLAN FOR--TO RELISH, THE EVENTS OF THIS MOMENT?

TRUE, YOUR INFERNAL CLOAK HAS POWERS WHICH ARE INDEPENDENT OF YOU...
...AND THEREFORE WERE NOT ABSORBED BY THE LIVING IMAGES I HURLED AGAINST YOU!
STILL, IT SHALL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT AGAINST... THESE!
3

BY THE DOLEFUL DEMONS OF DENAK!
THOSE TWIN BURSTS OF MYSTIC FLAME FROM DORMAMMU'S EYES ...CONGEAL THE VERY ATOMS ABOUT ME!
IN MY SHRUNKEN, WEAKENED STATE, I HAVE NO DEFENSE FROM THE DREAD ONE'S ATTACK!
I REGRET ONLY THAT YOUR DESPISED MENTOR, THE ANCIENT ONE HIMSELF, CANNOT BEHOLD YOU THUS...
...AT THE ULTIMATE NADIR OF YOUR POWER!
YET 'TIS NO MATTER...FOR HIS FATE, TOO, IS SEALED!
HE MUST FALL, THAT I MAY RULE THE FAR-FLUNG COSMOS!
AND NOW, MORTAL... AS YOU STAND MOTIONLESS, UNABLE EVEN TO SPEAK...
LISTEN TO THE STORY OF DORMAMMU'S SOLE DEFEAT...AND OF HIS FINAL, INEVITABLE VICTORY...
"TWAS MY DIMENSION-SPANNING QUEST FOR VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU, DR. STRANGE, THAT BROUGHT ME INTO CONFLICT WITH THE UNFATHOMABLE ENTITY KNOWN AS...ETERNITY..."*
*AS IS DEATHLESSLY RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI ...NOT TO MENTION STRANGE TALES #146! --SORCERER STAN.
4

YOUR PETTY QUARRELS DID NOT CONCERN ETERNITY, RASH ONE...
...UNTIL YOU PRESUMED TO IMPRISON ME WITHIN MY TIMELESS SUB-COSMOS!
BUT NOW, LET WHAT MUST, BEFALL...AND LET WHAT BEFALL, BE UPON YOUR HEAD!
TOO LONG HAVE YOU DENIED ME MY RIGHTFUL SUPREMACY, BRAGGART!
THUS, WHILE YOU MOUTH MEANINGLESS WORDS...
DORMAMMU STRIKES!

"YET, I HAD ERRED... FOR, THE POWER OF ETERNITY WAS BEYOND RECKONING...AND, AS MY FURY GREW--"
FOOL! DO YOU NOT REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ACTIONS?
YOU CANNOT SURVIVE THIS BLASPHEMOUS ATTACK!
LIAR! YOU BUT WISH TO SAVE YOUR OWN CRAVEN LIFE!
I CAN SENSE THAT THE TRIUMPH IS MINE...BUT I MUST USE MORE POWER...MORE!!

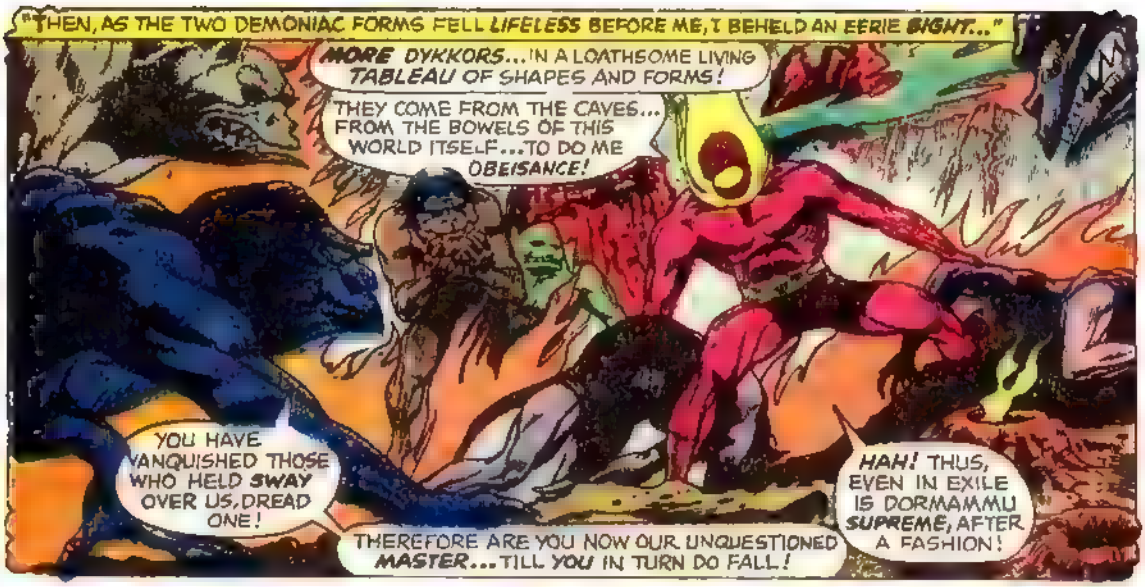
"BUT, WHY REPEAT THIS TO YOU, CAPTIVE ONE...WHEN THE SOLE WITNESS TO THE EPOCHAL STRUGGLE WAS...YOURSELF??"
DORMAMMU HAS GONE MAD!
HE WILL BE DESTROYED...BUT WHAT IF ETERNITY HIMSELF SHOULD PERISH IN THE ENSUING HOLOCAUST?

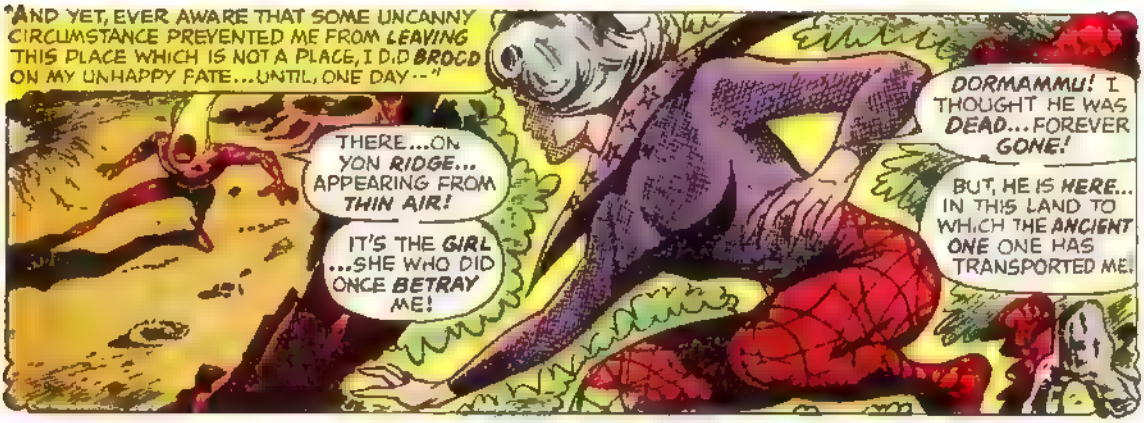
"ENRAGED...INFURIATED BEYOND ALL REASON, BEYOND ALL RECALL...I CONJURED UP A MYSTICAL MAELSTROM OF MALEVOLENCE..."
FOR THE FINAL TIME, DORMAMMU... BE WARNED!
YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU DO!
AYE...'TIS YOU WHO KNOW, GRIM ONE...AND WHO ARE AFRAID!
THUS, WITH DISDAIN DO I HURL THIS AWESOME SPELL AT YOUR HATED, MOCKING VISAGE!
BUT...WAIT! EVEN AS ETERNITY VANISHES...THE SPELL REBOUNDS BACK AGAINST ME--!!
IT IS AS I FEARED!
THE CATACLYSMIC IMPACT OF THEIR CLASH THREATENS TO DESTROY THEM BOTH!
"TWAS THEN THAT I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF HELPLESS...CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO ONRUSHING SPHERES WHICH MY OWN SPELL HAD SET IN MOTION..."
IF THIS BE MY DESTINY, THEN DO I WELCOME IT!
FOR, IF I MUST PERISH... I SHALL DO SO KNOWING THAT ETERNITY AND DR. STRANGE, TOO, HAVE BEEN CONSUMED!
6

"THEN, IN A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT MORE BRILLIANT THAN A THOUSAND EXPLODING SUNS..."
"...THE TWO HURTLING GLOBES COLLIDED... AND IN THAT MIND-WRENCHING MOMENT, I KNEW NO MORE..."
"YET, NOW I KNOW THAT YOU WERE NOT OBLITERATED IN THAT SUICIDAL INFERNO, AS I HAD INTENDED..."
"...BUT RATHER, YOU MANAGED TO SURROUND YOURSELF WITH A PSYCHIC SHIELD... SO THAT YOU WERE MERELY BUFFETED ABOUT IN THE CHAOS WHICH FOLLOWED..."
I AM SAFE... BUT ONLY FOR A WHILE!
MY MYSTIC SHIELD CANNOT PROTECT ME FOR LONG FROM THE CARNAGE ABOUT ME!
AND, IN THE INSTANT THAT IT FAILS ME... I DIE!
BUT... HOLD! SOME UNSEEN POWER HAS GRASPED ME... I CAN SENSE IT!
DOES IT PROPEL ME TO SAFETY... OR WILL IT PLUNGE ME EVER MORE DEEPLY INTO THE SURROUNDING DESTRUCTION--?
7

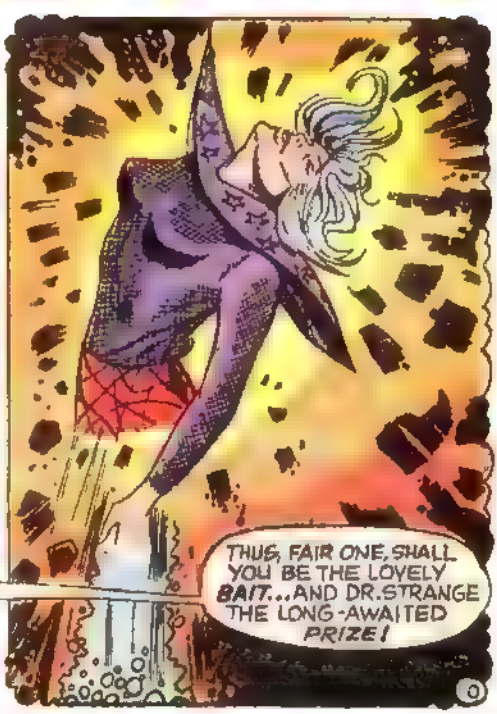
"WITLESS MORTAL! DID YOU NOT REALIZE THAT IT WAS YOUR OWN MENTOR...THE ACCURSED ANCIENT ONE...WHO SUMMONED YOU...?"
COME, MY SON... BACK FROM THAT FEARSOME WONDROUS WORLD WHERE TIME DOES NOT TREAD...
...WHERE SPACE IS BUT A SPOKEN WORD...
VOICED BY HIM WHO HOLDS THE VERY PLANETS IN THE PALMS OF HIS HANDS!
AT LAST... MY SPELL WAS SUCCESSFUL!
I FEARED I HAD TAXED MYSELF BEYOND MY MEAGRE POWERS!
FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I THANK YOU, MASTER!
BUT, WHAT OF ETERNITY ...AND OF EVIL DORMAMMU?
I PRAY, DISCIPLE, THAT WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHAT HAS BEFALLEN THE DREAD ONE!
"YET, EVEN AS HE WHOM I MOST DESPISE MOUTHED SUCH WORDS, HE COULD NOT KNOW THAT DORMAMMU HAD INDEED SURVIVED..."
"...HURLED INTO A WORLD WITHOUT A NAME, EXCEPT...THE REALM UNKNOWN!"
EVER IN EONS PAST, THIS PLACE HAS BEEN SPOKEN OF IN FEARFUL WHISPERS!
NOW, I SHALL TAME THIS LAND OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE ...AND MAKE IT MINE!
I SEEM TO SENSE HOSTILE EYES UPON ME ...FROM YON CAVE!
ARE THEY MERELY FIGMENTS OF MY MIND, OR--?
SILENCE, BROTHER... FOR A STRANGER WALKS OUR SINISTER LAND!
LOOK...EVEN NOW, HE APPROACHES!
FOOL...DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE THE DREADED DORMAMMU OF SHADOWY LEGEND?
BUT, NO MATTER...FOR, EVEN LEGENDS MAY DIE!
8

"THUS, SUDDENLY, AS I STEALTHILY ENTERED THE YAWNING CAVERN..."
FALL, YOU WHO WOULD INVADE OUR FORBIDDEN DIMENSION!
NOW, BY OUR HAND, SHALL YOU BE DESTROYED!
DYKKORS--THOSE MOST GROTESQUE OF DEMONS IN ALL THE COSMOS!
'TIS WRITTEN THAT THE LAST OF YOU HAD PERISHED!
NAY, DREAD ONE--WE WERE BUT IMPRISONED IN THIS FORSAKEN CLIME...
BY THE POWER OF THE HATED ANCIENT ONE!
AND NOW, YOU HAVE PURSUED US HITHER!
FOR THAT, YOU MUST DIE!
BRAINLESS, BESTIAL BRUTES!
DORMAMMU, TOO, WAS HURLED TO THIS WORLD AGAINST HIS WILL!
BUT, THOUGH I BE IN ENDLESS EXILE--
STILL AM I... DORMAMMU!
AIEEEE!
THE EVIL ONE SCATTERS US LIKE CHAFF WITH A BOLT OF SHEER MYSTIC FORCE!

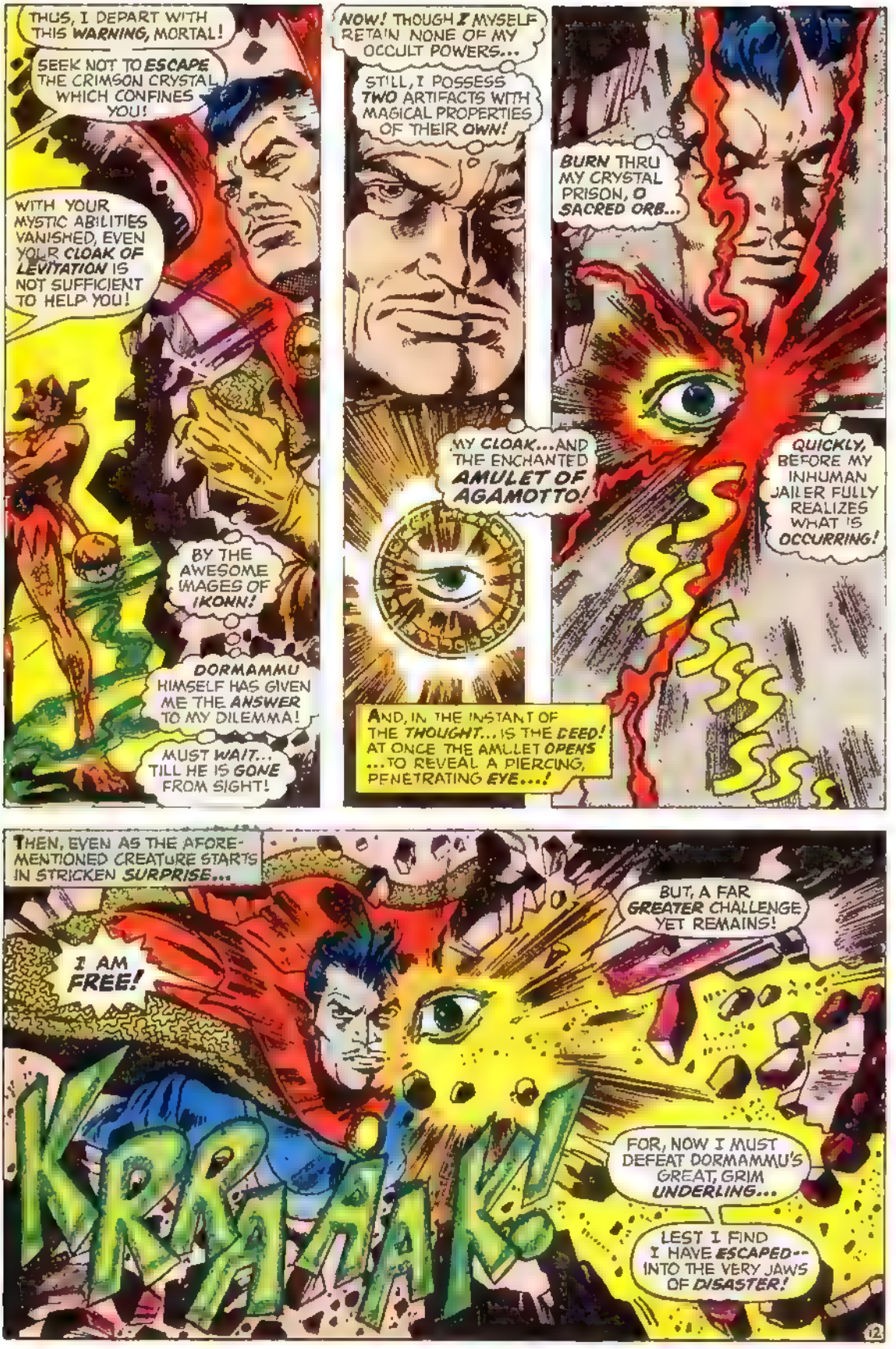

"THEN, AS THE TWO DEMONIAC FORMS FELL LIFELESS BEFORE ME, I BEHELD AN EERIE SIGHT..."
MORE DYKKORS... IN A LOATHSOME LIVING TABLEAU OF SHAPES AND FORMS!
THEY COME FROM THE CAVES... FROM THE BOWELS OF THIS WORLD ITSELF... TO DO ME OBEISANCE!
YOU HAVE VANQUISHED THOSE WHO HELD SWAY OVER US, DREAD ONE!
HAH! THUS, EVEN IN EXILE IS DORMAMMU SUPREME, AFTER A FASHION!
THEREFORE ARE YOU NOW OUR UNQUESTIONED MASTER... TILL YOU IN TURN DO FALL!


"AND YET, EVER AWARE THAT SOME UNCANNY CIRCUMSTANCE PREVENTED ME FROM LEAVING THIS PLACE WHICH IS NOT A PLACE, I D.D BROOD ON MY UNHAPPY FATE... UNTIL, ONE DAY--"
THERE... ON YON RIDGE... APPEARING FROM THIN AIR!
IT'S THE GIRL ...SHE WHO DID ONCE BETRAY ME!
DORMAMMU! I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD... FOREVER GONE!
BUT, HE IS HERE... IN THIS LAND TO WHICH THE ANCIENT ONE ONE HAS TRANSPORTED ME!

SO--IN ONE BRIEF MOMENT, FEMALE, YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE BURNING QUESTION WHICH HAS PREYED UPON MY MIND!
THE ANCIENT ONE... AND DR. STRANGE ...DO NOT KNOW THAT DORMAMMU LIVES!
YET, WHERE CLEA IS... CAN THE MORTAL MYSTIC BE FAR BEHIND?


THUS, FAIR ONE, SHALL YOU BE THE LOVELY BAIT... AND DR. STRANGE THE LONG-AWAITED PRIZE!

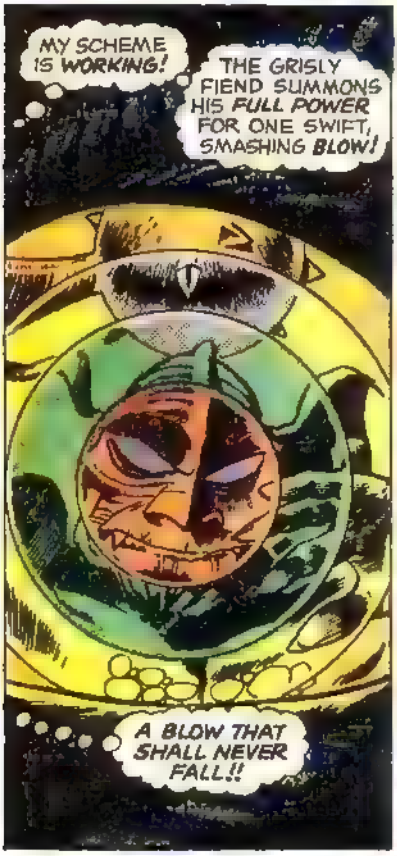
SO ENDS MY STORY!
AND NOW, STRANGER, I MUST LEAVE YOU...FOR THE DOORWAY OF THE DIMENSIONS BECKONS!
AH... I SEE THAT, EVEN IN YOUR TRANCE-LIKE STATE, YOU TREMBLE AT ITS MEREST MENTION!
YET, IN A SENSE, IT IS YOU WHO HAVE BROUGHT IT WITHIN MY REACH!
PONDER THOSE WORDS FOR A TIME, MY HAPLESS CAPTIVE, UNTIL I RETURN TO DISPOSE OF YOU...FOREVER!
BUT, I MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU ARE PROPERLY GUARDED...
...BY ONE WHOSE POWERS EQUAL THOSE YOU LOST!
AND, SUCH IS THE MATCHLESS POWER OF EVEN A BANISHED DORMAMMU--
--THAT THE SLIGHTEST SNAPPING OF MY FINGERS CAN CONJURE UP...
SNAP!
...A GRISLY GUARDIAN, THE TOUCH OF WHOSE LIVING MACE MEANS INSTANTANEOUS DOOM!
MARK MY WORDS, SENTINEL ...GUARD THE PRISONERS WELL!
IF ONE OF THEM SUCCEEDS IN BREAKING FREE OF MY SPELL...HE MUST BE SLAIN!
YOUR WILL IS MY WILL, DREAD ONE!


THUS, I DEPART WITH THIS WARNING, MORTAL!
SEEK NOT TO ESCAPE THE CRIMSON CRYSTAL WHICH CONFINES YOU!
WITH YOUR MYSTIC ABILITIES VANISHED, EVEN YOUR CLOAK OF LEVITATION IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO HELP YOU!
BY THE AWESOME IMAGES OF IKONN!
DORMAMMU HIMSELF HAS GIVEN ME THE ANSWER TO MY DILEMMA!
MUST WAIT... TILL HE IS GONE FROM SIGHT!
NOW! THOUGH I MYSELF RETAIN NONE OF MY OCCULT POWERS...
STILL, I POSSESS TWO ARTIFACTS WITH MAGICAL PROPERTIES OF THEIR OWN!
MY CLOAK...AND THE ENCHANTED AMULET OF AGAMOTTO!
AND, IN THE INSTANT OF THE THOUGHT... IS THE DEED! AT ONCE THE AMULET OPENS ...TO REVEAL A PIERCING, PENETRATING EYE...!
BURN THRU MY CRYSTAL PRISON, O SACRED ORB...
QUICKLY, BEFORE MY INHUMAN JAILER FULLY REALIZES WHAT IS OCCURRING!
SSSSSSS
THEN, EVEN AS THE AFORE-MENTIONED CREATURE STARTS IN STRICKEN SURPRISE...
I AM FREE!
KRRAAK!
BUT, A FAR GREATER CHALLENGE YET REMAINS!
FOR, NOW I MUST DEFEAT DORMAMMU'S GREAT, GRIM UNDERLING...
LEST I FIND I HAVE ESCAPED-- INTO THE VERY JAWS OF DISASTER!
12

YOU HAVE PRONOUNCED YOUR OWN FATE, DOOMED ONE!
HERE, IN A WORLD YOU NEVER MADE...YOU SHALL NONETHELESS PERISH!
SWISSSH
ANYTHING WHICH THAT MASSIVE MACE STRIKES...IS SHATTERED BY LETHAL BOLTS OF PURE FORCE!
DORMAMMU SPOKE THE TRUTH WHEN HE SAID THAT THE TOUCH OF THAT HAMMERING HAND MEANT...DEATH!
THWOOM!
3

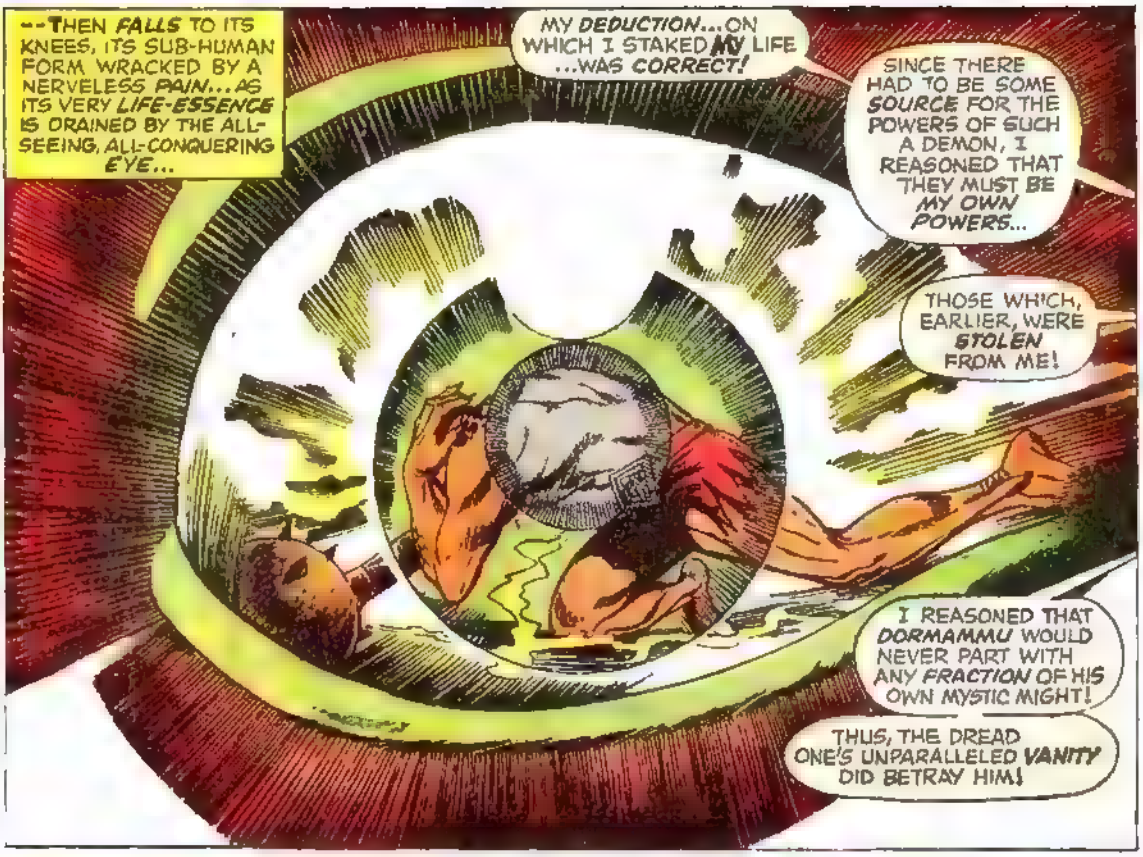
SURELY, NOT EVEN THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO CAN SAVE ME... BEREFT AS I AM OF MY MYSTIC MIGHT!
INDEED, WERE MY POWERS AT THEIR PEAK, I WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO DEFEAT SUCH A DIABOLICAL FOE!
BUT, HOW SUCH POWER IN ONE CONJURED UP BY A MERE GESTURE?
--UNLESS IT BE THAT... OF COURSE!

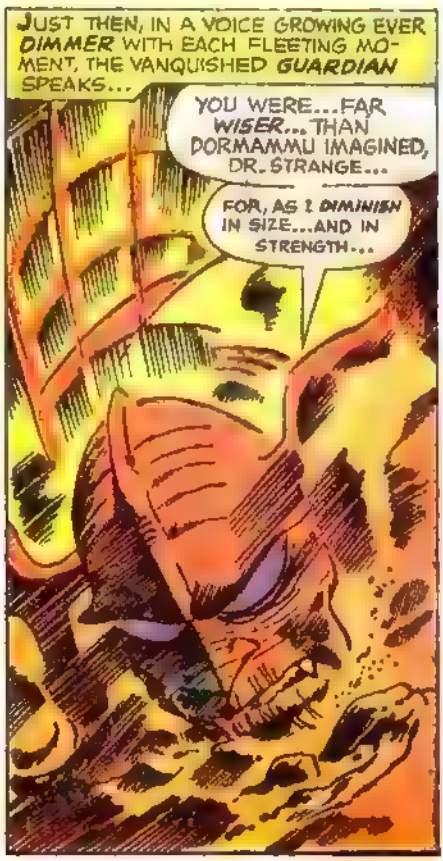
ACT, ALL-SEEING EYE, FOR ME!
STRIKE BACK AGAINST THE MONSTROUS ENTITY WHICH MENACES ME...
STRIKE BACK WITH ENCHANTMENT BEYOND BELIEF!


MY SCHEME IS WORKING!
THE GRISLY FIEND SUMMONS HIS FULL POWER FOR ONE SWIFT, SMASHING BLOW!
A BLOW THAT SHALL NEVER FALL!!

THE NEXT INSTANT, ASTONISHINGLY, EVEN AS THE DEADLY MACE BEGINS ITS ARC OF DESTRUCTION...
IT--IT CANNOT BE! WHAT--IS HAPPENING TO ME--??

--A BEAM OF LIGHT THAT IS NOT LIGHT SHINES FORTH FROM THE SACRED EYE OF AGAMOTTO...
AND, IN ITS BLINDING, UNEARTHLY GLARE, THE FEARSOME GUARDIAN REELS... STAGGERS...


--THEN FALLS TO ITS KNEES, ITS SUB-HUMAN FORM WRACKED BY A NERVELESS PAIN... AS ITS VERY LIFE-ESSENCE IS DRAINED BY THE ALL-SEEING, ALL-CONQUERING EYE...
MY DEDUCTION...ON WHICH I STAKED MY LIFE ...WAS CORRECT!
SINCE THERE HAD TO BE SOME SOURCE FOR THE POWERS OF SUCH A DEMON, I REASONED THAT THEY MUST BE MY OWN POWERS...
THOSE WHICH, EARLIER, WERE STOLEN FROM ME!
I REASONED THAT DORMAMMU WOULD NEVER PART WITH ANY FRACTION OF HIS OWN MYSTIC MIGHT!
THUS, THE DREAD ONE'S UNPARALLELED VANITY DID BETRAY HIM!


JUST THEN, IN A VOICE GROWING EVER DIMMER WITH EACH FLEETING MOMENT, THE VANQUISHED GUARDIAN SPEAKS...
YOU WERE...FAR WISER... THAN DORMAMMU IMAGINED, DR. STRANGE...
FOR, AS I DIMINISH IN SIZE...AND IN STRENGTH...

...MY POWER... IS PASSING BACK... INTO YOU...

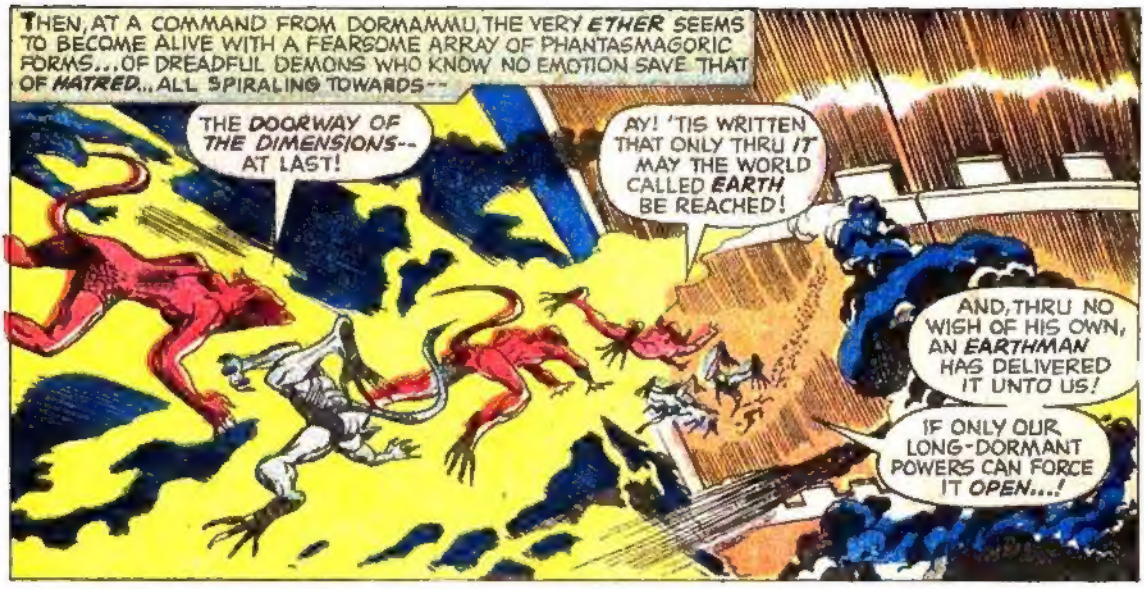
UNTIL I AM NO MORE
HE IS GONE... VANISHED!

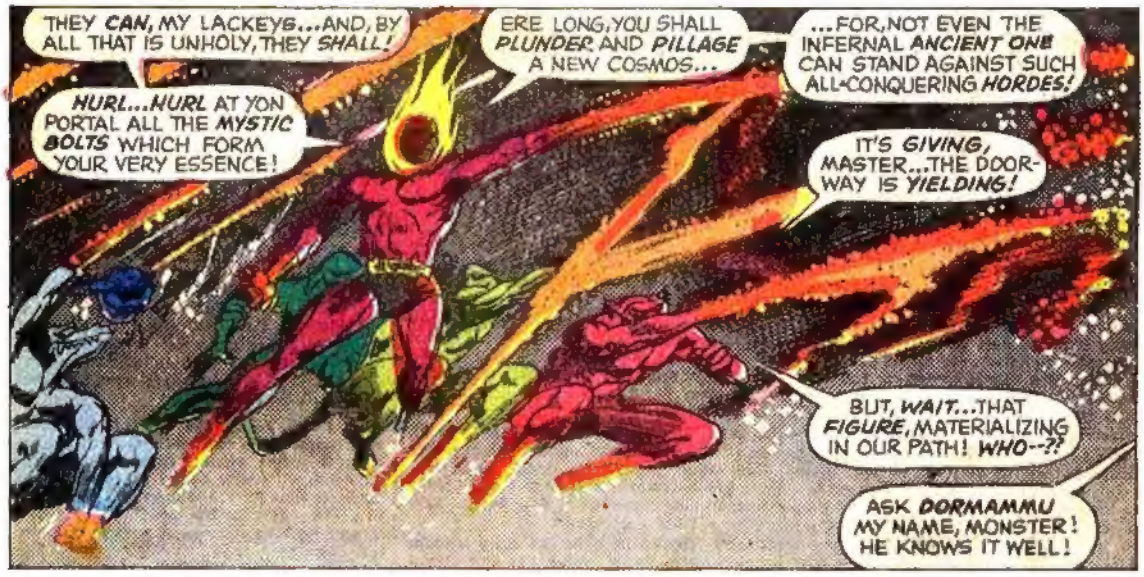
NEXT, AS THE AWESOME ORB RETURNS TO ITS RESTING PLACE WITHIN STEPHEN STRANGE'S AMULET...
I GOADED THE MONSTER INTO A TOWERING, TITANIC RAGE...
...THE MORE EASILY TO RE-ABSORB ALL MY PURLOINED POWERS THRU THE SACRED EYE!
BUT NOW TO ACCOMPLISH THAT MISSION FOR WHICH I JOURNEYED HERE!
AT LONG LAST... CLEA SHALL BE FREED!
NOR MUST I FORGET THE BRAVE VICTORIA BENTLEY--
--SHE WITHOUT WHOSE AID I COULD NEVER HAVE UNDERTAKEN MY QUEST!
FREE! WE... WE'RE FREE!
I WAS SO ... AFRAID!!
HOWEVER, VICTORIA'S WORDS FALL UNANSWERED IN THE ENSHROUDING GLOOM ...FOR, THE MYSTIC MASTER HAS EARS ONLY FOR THOSE OF THE SILVER-HAIRED GIRL AT THIS SIDE...
YOU'VE COME... AS I ALWAYS PRAYED YOU WOULD!
COULD YOU EVER HAVE DOUBTED IT?
COULD DR. STRANGE HAVE LIVED...AND LEFT YOU EXILED TO A DEATH-IN-LIFE?
YET, THE HOUR HAS NOT COME FOR SUCH THOUGHTS...FOR THE AIRING OF UNSPOKEN VOWS!
NOT WHILE THE FIEND CALLED DORMAMMU YET STALKS EVEN THIS FORSAKEN COSMOS!
IS THERE NOTHING I CAN SAY TO DETER YOU FROM SEEKING HIM OUT...?
YOU KNOW THERE IS NOT, DEAREST, CLEA!
IF I SHRANK NOW FROM THE FRAY, MY WHOLE LIFE WOULD BE A MOCKERY...A MEANINGLESS SHAM..!!
AND, AS THE GRIMLY TENDER SORCERER SPEAKS THUS, NEITHER HE NOR CLEA PAYS HEED TO A THIRD FIGURE STANDING NEARBY, WHO TURNS HER HEAD FROM THEIR SIGHT...AND CRIES...
I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD BE THIS WAY...
...WHEN HE FOUND THE FAIR CLEA FOR WHOM HE SOUGHT!
BUT STILL, COULD I EVER HAVE REFUSED HIM...WHEN HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM FIND HER?
FOR, MAY HEAVEN FORGIVE ME...I LOVE HIM...!
16

SUDDENLY, THE MOOD OF SOMBRE SILENCE IS BROKEN, AS...
ONE FINAL TASK MUST I NOW PERFORM...
...BEFORE I MAY FACE THE DREAD ONE!
BY THE ROVING RINGS OF RAGGADORR, WHICH BIND THE COSMIC NIGHT-- BY THE MYSTIC MOONS OF MUNNOPOR, WHICH BATHE THE STARS IN LIGHT--
BY THE POWER OF GREAT SATANNISH-- BY THE MIGHT OF OSTHUR'S NAME-- LET THE CAPTIVE GIRLS NOW VANISH... RETURN FROM WHENCE I CAME!!
BUT, EVEN AS THE TWO WEARY GIRLS ARE WAFTED THRU A WONDROUS DIMENSION-SPANNING WHIRLPOOL, WE DARE TARRY HERE NO LONGER... BUT GAZE WITH AWE UPON ANOTHER SCENE ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE SAME UNCANNY UNIVERSE...
WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME, MY BROTHER, FROM THE DARK DIMENSION WHERE I DWELL?
SIMPLY TO SHOW YOU THAT I POSSESS NOW THE POWER TO SUMMON YOU, DEAR UMAR*!
...THAT YOU MAY REALIZE THAT YOUR HOUR OF SUPREMACY IN MY FORMER EMPIRE...* IS AT AN END!
FOR, WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, MORE OF MY GROTESQUE SUBJECTS ARRIVE TO AWAIT MY COMMAND...
...AND, FOR ALL YOUR VAST MYSTIC POWER, YOU COULD NEVER STAND AGAINST SUCH TEMPESTUOUS HORDES!
*ANYONE WHO DOESN'T RECALL THE UNSPEAKABLE UMAR FROM ABOUT A ZILLION PAST EPICS, TURN IN YOUR MAGIC AMULET!
--STERN STAN.
YOU SPEAK AS IF WE WERE ENEMIES, DEAR BROTHER!
--AS IF I DID NOT SERVE FAITHFULLY AS THE STEWARDESS OF YOUR EMPIRE IN YOUR ABSENCE!

YOU KNOW FULL WELL, MY SCHEMING SISTER, THAT YOU REJOICED IN MY APPARENT DEATH!
BUT NOW, KNOW EQUALLY WELL THAT I YET LIVE--AND WILL AGAIN BE SUPREME!
WOULD I HAVE COME HERE, DORMAMMU, IF I WISHED YOU ILL?
MORE LYING WORDS FROM YOUR TREACHEROUS TONGUE!
YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE YOU HAD NO CHOICE... BECAUSE DR. STRANGE, IN ENTERING THE REALM UNKNOWN, UNKNOWINGLY BROKE THE SPELL WHICH BOUND ME HERE...!
...AND BECAUSE YOU KNOW, IF YOU ARE TO SURVIVE, YOU MUST DO ME HOMAGE!
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, DEAR UMAR?
THIS DO I ANSWER, FOR ALL TO HEAR!
BE WARY OF MOCKING MY POWER, MY BROTHER!
LEST, ONE DAY, YOUR WORDS RETURN TO HAUNT YOU ...THRU ALL THE ENDLESS AGES!
THEN, BEFORE THE OUTRAGED DORMAMMU CAN RESPOND TO HIS SISTER'S THINLY-VEILED THREAT...
LEAVE OFF THIS FUTILE FAMILY BICKERING, DREAD ONE!
AY! IT INTERESTS US NOT AT ALL!
WE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER ONLY TO LEARN WHAT YOU PROPOSE TO DO...
NOW THAT THE SPELL WHICH HAS SO LONG HELD US HERE HAS BEEN BROKEN!
WHAT? YOU WOULD DARE QUESTION MY ACTIONS, YOU MINDLESS BRUTES?
YOU ARE MY SLAVES...BOUND TO OBEY MY EVERY WHIM!
ONLY, EVIL DORMAMMU, UNTIL YOU IN TURN... ARE OVERTHROWN!
AND, PERHAPS THAT TIME HAS COME! LET US SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST ALL OF US!
WHILE UMAR, IN TURN, MUST ABIDE...AND WATCH!
18

AND, WATCH THE VENGEFUL UMAR DOES... AS HER DREADED SIBLING RAISES HIS ARMS IN A MENACING GESTURE, AND UTTERS A SNARLING, SINISTER SPELL--
BY THE POWER UNPARALLELED WHICH IS MINE--BY THE SCEPTRE OF SUPREMACY WHICH HAS RETURNED TO ME--
--NOW BE YOU CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION UNENDING!
DORMAMMU HAS SPOKEN!
WHAT--IS BEFALLING--US...?
BUT, THE TRIO OF DEMONS AT WHOM THE FATEFUL SPELL WAS CAST CAN NEITHER GIVE NOR HEAR AN ANSWER...FOR, THE NEXT INSTANT...
THEY ARE GONE...VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE!
TRULY, THE POWER OF DORMAMMU IS GREATER THAN EVER!
WE MUST OBEY HIM...WERE HE TO ORDER OUR OWN DEATHS!
YOU HAVE CHOSEN WISELY, MY LOATHSOME SUBJECTS...OR ELSE I WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU TO THE LAST!
BUT NOW, COME ...WE MUST WASTE NO MORE MOMENTS ON TRIFLES!
FOLLOW DORMAMMU TO ...THE DOORWAY OF THE DIMENSIONS!
THE DOORWAY--SO THAT IS HIS PATHWAY OUT OF THIS WORLD OF LONELY EXILE!
STILL, I MUST ACCOMPANY HIM IN SILENCE...TILL THAT TIME WHEN HE SHALL RUE THE DAY HE UNDERESTIMATED UMAR!
19


THEN, AT A COMMAND FROM DORMAMMU, THE VERY ETHER SEEMS TO BECOME ALIVE WITH A FEARSOME ARRAY OF PHANTASMAGORIC FORMS...OF DREADFUL DEMONS WHO KNOW NO EMOTION SAVE THAT OF HATRED...ALL SPIRALING TOWARDS--
THE DOORWAY OF THE DIMENSIONS--AT LAST!
AY! 'TIS WRITTEN THAT ONLY THRU IT MAY THE WORLD CALLED EARTH BE REACHED!
AND, THRU NO WISH OF HIS OWN, AN EARTHMAN HAS DELIVERED IT UNTO US!
IF ONLY OUR LONG-DORMANT POWERS CAN FORCE IT OPEN...!


THEY CAN, MY LACKEYS...AND, BY ALL THAT IS UNHOLY, THEY SHALL!
ERE LONG, YOU SHALL PLUNDER AND PILLAGE A NEW COSMOS...
...FOR, NOT EVEN THE INFERNAL ANCIENT ONE CAN STAND AGAINST SUCH ALL-CONQUERING HORDES!
HURL...HURL AT YON PORTAL ALL THE MYSTIC BOLTS WHICH FORM YOUR VERY ESSENCE!
IT'S GIVING, MASTER...THE DOORWAY IS YIELDING!
BUT, WAIT...THAT FIGURE, MATERIALIZING IN OUR PATH! WHO--?!
ASK DORMAMMU MY NAME, MONSTER! HE KNOWS IT WELL!

DR. STRANGE!
AY, EVIL ONE! 'TIS DR. STRANGE WHO NOW THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET OF CHALLENGE!
LET DORMAMMU FACE ME ALONE...IN COMBAT THAT NAUGHT SAVE DEATH MAY END!
AND, LET THE FATE OF EARTH ITSELF--HANG IN THE BALANCE!
NEXT: BATTLE!